

In addition to the inefficiencies on the user side, there may be impacts on the computing side as well. Using the print example above, for example, the print GUI typically causes the primary GUI to freeze until the user makes a selection from the print GUI. Therefore, even if the user has no changes to the printer defaults and just wanted to view them, the computer still freezes the primary window. In this case, the 'frozen' primary window is the GUI for the word processor. The computer remains idle with respect to both the secondary application, in this example the print job, and the primary application until the user makes a selection. This interferes with the computing efficiency in the primary application.

It would therefore seem useful for a computer to present a GUI that allows the user to see the defaults for a secondary application without having to interfere with the primary application or require any user intervention if there are no changes.

SUMMARY

One aspect of the disclosure is a method of providing a proxy user interface. A proxy user interface is provided for a secondary application activated by a user input. The proxy interface displays current or default settings for a task of that application. If no use input is received through the proxy interface, the task is performed. If a user input is received, the user interface for that application is presented to the user.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention may be best understood by reading the disclosure with reference to the drawings, wherein:

Figures 1a-b show one embodiment of a proxy graphical user interface, in accordance with the invention.

Figures 2a-2b show alternative embodiments of proxy graphical user interfaces, in accordance with the invention.

Figure 3 shows a flowchart of one embodiment of a method for providing a proxy graphical user interface, in accordance with the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1a shows a front view of one embodiment of a proxy user interface, in accordance with the invention. A graphical user interface for a primary application 10 is displayed upon the user's display device, such as a computer monitor. When the user makes an input that activates a secondary application, a proxy user interface for the secondary